

of new and additional resources, over and above traditional official development assistance (ODA). This would serve as a major confidence building measure and demonstration of good faith, as we enter a period of great uncertainty.

The General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and other intergovernmental bodies of the UN System by the very nature of their respective mandates are important for a dialogue, awareness raising and the exchange of information on issues of global concern. CARICOM believes that the General Assembly and ECOSOC must continue to ensure that addressing climate change remains a global priority, while fully respecting and not duplicating the ongoing negotiating process with the Convention. In this context, future actions or initiatives by the GA or the ECOSOC should add value to the ongoing negotiations, and be guided by the needs of Member States, particularly those most vulnerable to the adverse impacts of climate change. While we are convinced that a parallel negotiating theatre should not be established within the GA, we are equally convinced that the issue of climate change should not be held in abeyance in New York until our work is completed within the Convention.

CARICOM has some concerns over the orientation of the SG's report and in particular the rationale given for what he terms "a more inclusive and coherent approach to climate change". We believe that the first and overriding priority of the U.N. System's work in climate change should be addressing the needs of those most vulnerable and most adversely impacted by climate change—SIDS, LDCs, countries in Africa and disaster prone developing countries, rather than, as the report states providing support for negotiations. The effectiveness of the U.N. System should be assessed by its capacity to deliver the required assistance to, and build capacity in, these vulnerable countries and other developing countries.

CARICOM Member States are highly vulnerable to climate change impacts including sea-level rise, increasingly severe hurricanes and other extreme weather events, drought and water scarcity, coral bleaching, and declining fish stocks. In this regard we call on relevant U.N. agencies, funds and programs to ensure that their activities in the area of climate change in our region are fully supportive of national and regional efforts to address these specific challenges. This demand driven approach with strong national and regional ownership must be embedded in the U.N.'s work at the national and regional levels. Areas, sectors, projects and program identified as priority in our national communications to the Convention, national and regional adaptation plans and sustainable development plans and strategies should receive the full support of the relevant parts of the U.N. System.

IN HONOR OF AMERICAN LEGION POST 738

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 9, 2008

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of American Legion Post 738, on its sixtieth anniversary; and in honor of its members' outstanding service to their country and community.

American Legion Post 738 is comprised of over one hundred people, each of whom has served our country during a time of war. Rec-

ognized by Mayor Eileen Patton of Fairview Park as a "dedicated group of true Americans that are proud to serve our country", the members of American Legion Post 738 have played a significant role in the community for sixty years.

Every year, Post 738 organizes Fairview Park's spectacular Memorial Day Parade. Located on Lorain Road, Post 738 has served as a beacon of hospitality. After every Memorial Day Parade, they welcome all members of the community back to their post and host them for a bountiful cookout. Members of the Post also host bi-monthly dinners there.

Every year before Christmas, Post and auxiliary members of Post 738 put together care packages for fellow veterans at the Louis Stokes Veterans Administration Medical Center in Brecksville, Ohio and nurturing local children whose parents are veterans at their annual Christmas party. Always willing to participate in City events, six times a year, Post and ladies auxiliary members deliver refreshments and play bingo with veterans at the VA medical center.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in recognizing the members of American Legion Post 738 for their outstanding and tireless efforts on behalf of veterans of this country, as well as for their extensive and diverse service to many individuals and families who call the Greater Cleveland area home.

[From the WestLife Newspaper, Apr. 2, 2008]

AMERICAN LEGION POST 738 MARKING 60TH ANNIVERSARY

(By Kevin Kelley)

The ladies auxiliary of American Legion Post 738 is putting on a dinner marking the organization's 60th anniversary April 12.

Despite the celebratory nature of the event, Joanne Hulec, president of the ladies auxiliary, has a sense of trepidation.

"I hope this is not the last birthday dinner we have," she said.

Property taxes and utility costs have combined with declining membership to put American Legion Post 738 in a financial pinch in recent months.

Three months ago, some leaders associated with the post put out a public appeal to help with the organization's cash flow problems.

Ron Hulec, Joanne's husband and a former post commander and member of its executive board, said while the organization is currently solvent, its finances are still tight.

Hulec said that when he joined about 14 years ago, the post had about 240 members. Today it has around 140.

There has been some discussion in recent months among post leaders, Hulec said, of selling its property, located at 1931 Lorain Road. In the event of such a sale, the post would seek to share facilities with another area post, possibly American Legion Clifton Post 421, headquartered at 22001 Brookpark Road. However, members have held off on making any decision to sell the post's hall, said Hulec, who served in the Army in the 1950s.

"We're doing everything we can to keep functioning the way we have been," he said.

The post's current commander, Jim Babitsky, noted that most community organizations have been having financial problems lately.

"We're hoping to stabilize the finances and keep the post alive and keep it going," said Babitsky, a Marine veteran who was stationed in Vietnam in 1968-69. "The economic times are just rough on everybody."

Meanwhile, the post's members, who already served their country during wartime, continue to serve the community and their fellow veterans in various ways.

The post raises the American flag at Fairview High School home football games and provides color guards at local civil events.

"If City Hall needs the colors posted, we usually do that," Babitsky said.

Mayor Eileen Patton said she appreciated their service.

"Legion Post 738 has always played an important role in our community," Patton told WestLife. "They participate in our Summerfest every year as well as every We Do Care ceremony each November at the high school. They also organize our Memorial Day parade and invite the community back to the post for a ceremony and a great cookout at no cost."

"I also have the honor of attending all the Legion ceremonies installing their new boards and the women's auxiliary boards as well. They are a wonderful dedicated group of true Americans that are so proud of serving our country. They are always willing to participate in our city events, and I am so glad that I have gotten to know each and every one of them."

Post and ladies auxiliary members travel about six times a year to the U.S. Veterans Administration Medical Center in Brecksville to visit, deliver refreshments, and play bingo with the veterans. "They seem to appreciate that a lot," said Sue Carson, treasurer of the ladies auxiliary. Before Christmas each year, post and auxiliary members put together care packages containing toiletries, cards and books for the veterans at the Brecksville hospital, she added.

The post also hosts an annual Christmas party for local children whose fathers and grandfathers are veterans, said Carson, whose husband, Don, is a Korean Conflict-era Army veteran.

About two dinners are held each month at the post's hall, Carson said. In recent weeks, the ladies auxiliary has been focusing on the anniversary dinner.

"We have a birthday dinner every year," Carson said, "but this year we're trying to make it more special because of the 60th anniversary."

Joanne Hulec said it's shaping up to be one of the post's highlights of the year. "I like to think of it as one of our 'white table cloth' dinners," she joked. Because the dinner will be catered, the ladies will be relieved of kitchen duty, except for those making the hor'dourves, she said.

Several certificates of appreciation will be awarded to a number of post and auxiliary members, Carson said. Just who will be recognized is a secret; however, Carson said recognition will be given to "people who have put forth a concerted effort to be active in the post."

The post's 60th anniversary dinner April 12 is open to the public. Cocktails and appetizers will be served from 5:45 until 6:45 p.m., with dinner following at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$12 per person. To make reservations, call Sue Carson at (440) 331-2730 by April 7.

PRO OF THE YEAR: For nearly five decades, Post 738 hosted its "Pro Of the Year" dinner honoring a member of the Cleveland Browns. This year, quarterback Derek Anderson will be honored at the April 22 event, which Hulec said is the organization's biggest annual fund-raiser.

TRIBUTE TO KIRKLAND CALVET ANDERSON, SR.

HON. KEITH ELLISON

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 9, 2008

Mr. ELLISON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life of Kirkland "Kirk"